

bcc: Reports Dept. (P-2183, The
Crude Analysis of Strategic
Choices)
Haydon/Bourgin

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L-14820

Dr. Martin Shubik
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Dear Martin:

Your first letter arrived while I was in the East, getting my degree among other things. I am, of course, glad to have you reprint the article. However, your remark that you wanted to use "most" of it, or something to that effect, made me think I had better look it over to see whether some omissions would be particularly critical. I have finally done so.

This piece was written essentially as an abstract, though it ended up seven pages long. The model is extremely simple and its use severely limited; its merit lies only in the ease with which it may be used to analyze the interrelations and consistency of familiar intuitive judgments on the gross effects of certain policies. In other words, its merits appear only in application, not in a description of its abstract design. When presented without examples of application, it is open to the charge that it reveals a simplistic approach to strategic problems. I have tried to hedge against this reaction, to some extent, by indicating in several passages that I am aware of the limitations of this sort of model and of this one in particular. I have marked these in the enclosed reprint, and I would appreciate knowing that any editing that may take place will leave these qualifying comments in. (I only wish there were opportunity to expand them.) In fact, I feel sufficiently uneasy about presenting the piece at all in this highly condensed form that it would satisfy more than the usual author's pride for me to know that it would not be cut further; however, I do not insist on this (except for the marked passages).

I hope it won't be too long before you are out here again. We can talk doctor-to-doctor at last.

Yours,

DE/ss
Encl. (As noted)

Daniel Ellsberg
Economics Department